



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

## COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION

*Federal Aviation Administration*

***Fiscal Year 2006 Business Plan***

# 2006 AST Business Plan

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## 2006 AST Business Plan

The mission of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST) is to ensure public safety for licensed U.S. launch activities, and to support the continued growth and expansion of the U.S. space transportation industry. Safety is AST's top priority. To meet its safety responsibilities, AST undertakes a variety of core business functions to ensure that uninvolved persons are protected from the dangers and potential hazards associated with commercial space launch operations. These functions include making license determinations, conducting inspections of licensed operations, and developing rulemaking products related to commercial launch activities. Also, AST is driven to evolve its processes and approaches toward ensuring public safety as the commercial space transportation industry evolves. With a focus on the rapid evolution and complexity of new launch vehicles, AST will lead agency efforts to establish new processes to evaluate and approve safety critical launch vehicle components and systems. Further, AST will continue to improve its processes and leverage partnerships with other government organizations to enhance the safety of launches occurring from both federal and non-federal launch sites.

In addition to ensuring public safety, AST enables industry through a variety of activities intended to encourage, promote, and facilitate the growth and expansion of U.S. commercial space transportation. AST's core business functions in this area include environmental projects, reports on industry developments and trends, and stakeholder forums.

Further, AST takes great pride in delivering timely and reliable products that meet or exceed customer requirements. AST is committed to working with its stakeholders to identify approaches that will render even greater service and stakeholder satisfaction, as well as cost savings. Finally, AST's greatest resource is its dedicated staff. AST strives to ensure that all of its staff members are properly trained and prepared to perform at the highest levels.

### Increased Safety

AST supports the FAA Flight Plan Increased Safety goal by developing and supporting establishment of regulations for commercial space launch and reentry vehicle operations

and sites. AST conducts thorough and complete evaluations of all proposed launch activities by U.S. citizens or conducted in the U.S. to ensure public safety. Further, AST inspects and monitors licensed space launch activities, and issues permits to commercial entities for launches for research and development purposes.

### Flight Plan Performance Target:

#### Space Launch Accidents

No fatalities, serious injuries, or significant property damage to the uninvolved public during licensed space launch and reentry activities.

FY06 target: 0

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#### Strategic Initiative: Safety Approvals

Establish processes and standards for granting safety approvals of launch and reentry vehicles, safety systems, processes, services and/or personnel.

##### Strategic Activity: Develop Safety Approval Standards and Processes

Develop internal guidance and directives for issuance of safety approvals.

##### Targets:

Issue final safety approval process internal guidance document by 6/30/06.

##### Strategic Activity: Make Safety Approval Determinations

Complete all required actions/milestones to make a safety approval for a launch vehicle, safety system, personnel or services.

##### Targets:

Make safety approval determinations within 90 days of receiving an

acceptable application for a safety approval.

### **Strategic Initiative: Enhance Launch Site Safety**

Enhance safety for launch at federal and non-federal launch sites through continued improvement of internal processes and partnerships with the Air Force, other government agencies, and the commercial space transportation industry.

#### **Strategic Activity: Develop and Implement Common Launch Safety Standards**

Identify and implement common launch safety standards in partnership with government and industry stakeholders to ensure protection of the public from the hazards associated with commercial space transportation operations.

##### **Targets:**

1. Formulate a recommendation for public risk acceptability criteria for ELV by 9/15/06.

#### **Strategic Activity: Develop and Improve Safety Tools and Processes**

Develop internal tools and processes utilized by AST engineering/technical staff.

##### **Targets:**

1. Provide final specifications for CST Lab at WJHTC to ATO by 12/31/05.
2. Complete initial update of AST Licensing and Safety Directive 001 by 7/31/06.
3. Complete draft revision of AST licensing and Safety Directive 001 to include experimental permits by 8/31/06.

#### **Strategic Activity: Conduct safety-related research**

Execute AST approved safety-related research projects.

##### **Targets:**

1. Finalize report on initial requirements for development of separation standards for space vehicles and aircraft by 8/31/06.
2. Finalize research on commercial human space flight data collection requirements by 8/30/06.

#### **Strategic Activity: Develop SATMS**

Implement the Space and Air Traffic Management System (SATMS) program plan.

##### **Targets:**

1. Develop addendum to the Commercial Space Transportation Concept of Operations to address new industry developments that impact the NAS architecture by 03/31/06.
2. Identify technical requirements for SATMS Decision Support Tool by 07/31/06.

### **Strategic Initiative: Human Space Flight**

Develop rules and guidelines to enable human space flight participation and experimental suborbital reusable launch vehicle operations.

#### **Strategic Activity: Develop human space flight regulations**

Develop rules governing crew and passenger flight aboard space launch vehicles.

##### **Targets:**

1. Submit draft final rule to OST within 90 days after the closing of the public comment period on the Human Space Flight NPRM.

#### **Strategic Activity: Develop experimental permit regulations**

Develop rules to enable experimental sub-orbital RLV flights.

##### **Targets:**

1. Submit draft final rule to OST within 90 days after the closing of the public comment period on the Experimental Permits NPRM.

## **Core Business Function: Licensing**

Evaluate proposals to conduct launch/reentry vehicle operations and sites from U.S. citizens or non-U.S. entities seeking to conduct such operations in the U.S. to ensure public safety.

### **Core Business Activity: Conduct Licensing Process**

Conduct the AST licensing process, which includes pre-application consultations, policy reviews, payload reviews, safety evaluations, and a financial responsibility requirements determinations.

#### **Targets:**

1. Make all new license determinations within 180 days of receiving a sufficiently complete application.
2. Make all license renewal determinations within 90 days of receiving a license renewal request.
3. Conduct pre-application discussions with 9 potential applicants
4. Complete 3 policy reviews
5. Complete a payload determination
6. Complete 3 safety evaluations
7. Complete 6 MPL determinations
8. Make 4 license renewal determinations

## **Core Business Function: Safety Inspections**

Inspect and monitor launch/reentry licensee activities to ensure that licensed commercial space transportation operations are carried out in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, representations made in the license application, and license terms and

conditions set by FAA/AST.

### **Core Business Activity: Inspect launch and reentry operations and sites**

Inspect and monitor licensed launch events and sites to ensure license holder compliance with all applicable regulations. Multiple inspections may occur for a single licensed launch operation.

#### **Targets:**

1. Complete 4 licensed launch and reentry site inspections.
2. Complete 10 inspections of licensed launch and reentry vehicle operations.

## **Core Business Function: Rulemaking**

Conduct regulatory development projects and activities pertaining to U.S. commercial space transportation.

### **Core Business Activity: Develop and Issue Rulemaking Products**

Develop rulemaking products for the U.S. commercial space transportation industry to ensure public safety.

#### **Targets:**

1. Submit Part 404 Phase I RPR to ARM-20 by 4/25/06.
2. "Licensing and Safety Requirements for Launch" final rule ready for Federal Register by 5/31/06.
3. Submit Small Scale Rocket final rule for final team concurrence by 7/31/06.
4. Submit Explosive Siting phase III RPR to ARM-20 by 8/29/06.
5. Submit Space Transportation Safety Approval submitted to Federal Register by 8/31/06.

### **Core Business Activity: Develop and Issue Advisory Documents**

Develop and issue products intended to assist potential licensees meet regulatory requirements pertaining to



public safety.

**Targets:**

1. Complete Final ELV Probability of Failure Guide by 5/31/06.
2. Issue draft Hazard Analysis for Experimental Permits Advisory Circular by 5/31/06.
3. Issue draft Experimental Permit Application Advisory Circular by 7/31/06.
4. Issue Guide to RLV Software Safety by 8/31/06.
5. Complete update to Advisory Circular on Expected Casualty Analysis by 8/31/06.
6. Issue Advisory Circular for Anomaly Reporting and Corrective Action by 8/31/06.

**Core Business Function: Permits**

Evaluate applications for and issue permits to allow for space launches in accordance with specific criteria identified in the Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act (CSLAA).

**Core Business Activity: Make Permit Determinations**

Make a determination to issue a permit to conduct experimental RLV suborbital launches.

**Targets:**

Make permit determinations within 120 days of receiving an acceptable application for a permit.

## Greater Capacity

AST supports the FAA Flight Plan Greater Capacity goal by enabling the growth and expansion of U.S. commercial space transportation. Specifically, AST conducts necessary environmental-related activities, as well as activities geared towards generating public support for U.S. commercial space transportation.

**Core Business Measure:**

## Expand Commercial Space Transportation Capacity

Encourage and facilitate the expansion of commercial space transportation through environmental activities and delivery of products to enhance the international competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry.

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**Core Business Function:  
Environmental Reviews**

Conduct environmental projects for proposed licensed activities to facilitate the industry growth.

**Core Business Activity: Perform Environmental Reviews**

Conduct environmental reviews for proposed launch and reentry operations.

**Targets:**

1. Publish notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Southwest Regional Spaceport by 5/31/06.
2. Publish notice of availability and request for public comment for draft EA for Blue Origin by 7/31/06.
3. Publish Environmental Assessment for Oklahoma Spaceport by 8/31/06.
4. Complete four (4) environmental renewals

**Core Business Activity: Environmental Streamlining**

Simplify the environmental review process for commercial space launch site applicants.

**Targets:**

1. Publish notice of availability of final programmatic EIS for Horizontal Launches and Reentry Vehicles by 12/31/05.
2. Conduct internal Environmental

Management System audit by 12/31/05.

3. Publish notice of intent to prepare a programmatic EIS for experimental permits by 3/31/06.

### **Core Business Function: Enabling Industry**

Enable the commercial space transportation industry through activities intended to encourage, facilitate, and promote the growth and international competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry.

#### **Core Business Activity: Publish reports and studies**

Publish reports and results of studies pertaining to the commercial space transportation industry.

##### **Targets:**

1. Publish Industry Concepts and Developments report by 3/01/06
2. Complete Commercial Space Transportation Industry Forecast by 05/30/06.
3. Publish 4 quarterly launch reports.
4. Complete Commercial Space Transportation Economic Impact Study by 6/30/06.

#### **Core Business Activity: Industry Facilitation and Outreach**

Partner with launch vehicle developers, site operators, government officials, academia, and other space transportation professionals in public forums to discuss commercial space transportation issues.

##### **Targets:**

1. Conduct Commercial Space Transportation Conference.
2. Solicit input from industry on 4 key issues.

## **Organizational Excellence**

AST supports the FAA Flight Plan Organizational Excellence goal by managing

for results that support achievement of AST's mission and vision. Specifically, AST seeks to control costs, improve customer service, effectively and efficiently manage its resources, and execute a comprehensive training plan to meet the unique needs of commercial space transportation technical professionals employed by AST.

### **Flight Plan Performance Target:**

#### **Employee Attitude Survey**

Increase Employee Attitude Survey scores in the areas of management effectiveness and accountability by at least 5 percent by FY 2010. FY06 Target: 3 percent.

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### **Strategic Initiative: Conflict Management**

Undertake a timely and effective corporate approach to conflict management.

#### **Strategic Activity: Support Center for Early Dispute Resolution**

Support Center for Early Dispute Resolution.

##### **Targets:**

Pending guidance regarding specific requirements, AST will develop an implementation plan 60 days after receiving guidance from the Center.

### **Strategic Initiative: EAS Action Plan**

Monitor and evaluate Employee Attitude Survey (EAS) Action Plan results.

#### **Strategic Activity: Implement AST EAS Action Plan**

Implement AST's EAS action plan to address employee feedback and improve organizational effectiveness.

##### **Targets:**

1. Implement interim EAS 2005 results into the EAS Action Plan by 12/31/05.

## Flight Plan Performance Target:

component of the licensing process

### Cost Control Program

Each FAA organization will contribute at least one measurable and significant cost reduction and/or productivity improvement activity each year, including but not limited to, cost efficiencies in the areas of: strategic sourcing for selected products and services; complete consolidation of facilities and services such as accounting offices, real property management, helpdesks, and Web services; and elimination or reduction of FAA use of obsolete technology by either removing from service or transferring from Federal operation 100 NavAids. FY06 Target: 100 percent compliance.

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#### Strategic Initiative: Cost Control Program

Implement line of business-specific cost reduction and/or productivity improvement initiatives as well as agency-wide initiatives.

#### Strategic Activity: Manage and reduce costs of AST programs

Reduce AST program costs.

##### Targets:

1. Achieve a 2 percent reduction in environmental review costs resulting in a cost savings of \$16,000.

#### Strategic Activity: Establish Licensing Process Baseline Costs

Establish baseline costs for each component (i.e. safety review, maximum probable loss determination, payload review) of the licensing process

##### Targets:

- Establish baseline costs for each

## Flight Plan Performance Target:

### Customer Satisfaction

Increase agency scores on the American Customer Satisfaction Index. FY06 Target: 65.

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#### Strategic Initiative: Requirements Review

Review customer requirements annually and measure customer satisfaction more broadly for FAA services.

#### Strategic Activity: AST Customer Satisfaction Survey

Conduct the AST Customer Satisfaction Survey

##### Targets:

1. Develop AST Customer Satisfaction survey for launch service providers by 12/15/05.
2. Conduct pre-application survey with at least 5 potential applicants.
3. Survey licensed launch service providers by 4/30/06.
4. Complete AST FY06 customer service action plan by 8/31/06.

## Core Business Measure:

### Resource Management and Development

Management and Training of AST Human Resources.

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#### Core Business Function: Resource Management

Management of AST Human and Fiscal Resources

#### Core Business Activity: Manage Human Resources

AST management and leadership training, and employee recruitment and



retention.

**Targets:**

1. All AST executives and managers enroll in and complete 2 developmental/training activities by 8/31/06.
2. Achieve an average staffing level at no less than 90% authorized (monthly avg.).
3. Report status on sick leave usage each quarter to AHR.
4. Communicate and link AST Employee Performance Plans to FAA Flight Plan Goals by 12/31/05.
5. Conduct quarterly reviews of employee performance plan linkage to the Flight Plan.

**Core Business Activity: Manage Fiscal Resources**

Management of AST financial resources.

**Targets:**

1. Obligate 98% of authorized funding.
2. Achieve an average Labor Distribution Reporting (LDR) compliance rate of 90%.

**Core Business Activity: Manage Information Technology Resources**

Manage and oversee AST IT resources.

**Targets:**

1. Recertify and authorize the AST LAN/WAN by 6/30/06.
2. Fix 25% of medium and high FAA targeted vulnerabilities that pertain to AST.
3. Populate FAA website with space transportation information and links by 8/30/06.

**Core Business Activity: Manage Occupational Safety and Health Activities**

Manage AST activities associated with occupational safety and health.

**Targets:**

1. Conduct activities to comply with a safety and health program management evaluation by 6/30/06.
2. Complete occupational safety and health evaluation by 6/30/06

**Core Business Function: Training**

AST employee professional development and training.

**Core Business Activity: Develop Training**

Develop space transportation related training courses.

**Targets:**

1. Develop three levels of part 417 training by 2/28/06.
2. Complete catalogue of safety and technical courses by 7/31/06.

**Core Business Activity: Deliver Training**

Professional development and training received by AST employees.

**Targets:**

1. Conduct three levels of part 417 training by 8/31/06.
2. Complete 1800 hours of technical training.